

CMC Virtual Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 04, 2024

CMC Members Present: Reg Rankin, Tom Robertson, Andrew Giles, John Cascadden, Channing Davis, Hailey McKinnon

Others Present: Betsy Chambers, Jason Timms, Scott Morash (CMC Staff); Andrew Philopoulos, Shannon Betts, Jeff McAulay (HRM, Solid Waste Resources) Justin Hawco, Steve Copp (Mirror Nova Scotia Ltd.)

1. The CMC Acting Chair welcomed Hailey MacKinnon, one of three new HRM Council appointees to the CMC.
2. Moved by Andrew Giles and seconded by John Cascadden to add a new business item directly after the approval of the agenda concerning the departure of Andrew Philopoulos, the HRM Director of Solid Waste Resources. Motion carried.

At the request of John Cascadden, it was moved by Reg Rankin and seconded by John Cascadden to make two more additions to the agenda: the organization of a tour of the Otter Lake landfill facility for CMC members, and consideration of a new standing item on future agendas to allow input from any members of the public attending CMC meetings. Motion carried.

Under the newly added business item, Andrew Giles moved on behalf of the CMC, seconded by John Cascadden, to thank Andrew Philopoulos who leaves as HRM's director of solid waste and resources, July 11, 2024 to join Circular Materials as Managing Director for Atlantic Canada. "I just want to thank him for his work and relationship with CMC over the years that he's been involved," said Mr. Giles. "Sometimes, while we had differences of opinion, between HRM and CMC, I always felt that Andrew was very professional, and he did his best to balance the situation at hand. So we wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Thank you again, Andrew, for all your efforts towards this committee." The Acting Chair commended Mr. Philopoulos for his faithful attendance at CMC meetings, something his predecessors were not known for. Motion carried.

In response, Mr. Philopoulos said, “I just wanted to thank you for the kind words. It has been a good relationship, a professional one, also a necessary one as well, so I appreciate working with everyone over the last five years.”

3. John Cascadden moved, seconded by Tom Robertson, the adoption of the minutes as distributed with the correction to a spelling of Mr. Cascadden’s name.

4. The CMC Vice-Chair Andrew Giles issued a call for further nominations three times resulting in no new nominees and Mr. Giles declared Reg Rankin the new CMC Chair by acclamation. (At the Halifax Waste Resource Society annual meeting, April 18, 2024, it was moved by Andrew Giles and seconded by Channing Davis, to select Reg Rankin as the society’s nominee for the CMC Chair.)

5. Scott Morash, the CMC Environment Consultant, presented CMC Members with a draft response to an HRM draft policy on proposed conditions that would allow the Otter Lake waste facility to accept construction and demolition debris (C&D) in emergency situations. The recommendation was formulated after consultation with the Technical Advisory Committee. Approval of the recommended response was moved by Andrew Giles and seconded by John Cascadden. Motion carried.

Andrew Philopoulos offered reassurances by pointing out that the Otter Lake site was built to a higher standard than current C&D facilities in the province. He suggested the HRM policy might incorporate “something in writing” about ensuring that operations would be environmentally sound, although approvals are already subject to the operations and maintenance manual and there is always clay or low permeable cover on hand if needed. However, he thought it would be unnecessary to cover C&D with clay material. The approval and associated requirements, he said, should cover mitigation requirements for any potential issues that arise, including odours. The concern about the cell liner was covered in the UNM manual.

6. Scott Morash, CMC’s Environmental Consultant, reviewed the four quarterly performance audits during the past fiscal year 2023-2024. Andrew Philopoulos said his group has spent much time and effort after each audit to look for ways to improve public compliance in sorting residential garbage. Stricter enforcement, he said had brought some improvements in the audit results. Condos, he said, had proved problematic especially in the last audit and more was being done with this residential sector to promote better garbage sorting.

7. Tom Roberson and Hailey MacKinnon were nominated by John Cascadden, and John Cascadden was nominated by Andrew Giles as members of the CMC Communications Committee. No other nominations were received and the Chair declared the nominees to the three-person committee appointed.

8. Scott Morash, CMC's Environmental Consultant and Steve Copp, Manager of the Otter Lake Landfill, reviewed the ongoing work to the opening of Cell 7 B – which is expected to receive waste no later than the end of this calendar year. Steve Copp reported the plastic liner has started to receive clay and that work will continue throughout August. All has gone well with no delays, good weather and no odour incidents.

9. John Cascadden asked the chair to arrange a tour of the Otter Lake landfill facility at the convenience of CMC and the landfill operator. The Chair agreed to make the arrangements for a tour.

10. John Cascadden proposed that the CMC should follow the lead of HRM committees that retain a standing agenda item to allow any members of the public in attendance to give public input to the committee. He suggested the item be placed on the agenda before the adjournment. The Chair directed the Communications Advisor to consider the issue and provide a report to the CMC. Mr. Cascadden then moved to defer the item to the next meeting. Item deferred.

11. Moved by Tom Robertson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

12. Moved by Andrew Giles and seconded by Channing Davis to immediately reconvene in camera for a further meeting, as scheduled. Motion carried.
